

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /130 W

----- 088275

R 200952Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0149

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T UDORN 123 FINAL SECTION OF 2

5. COUP POSSIBILITIES. VICE GOVERNOR SAID HE FELT ARMY WOULD KEEP ITS WORD AND ALLOW ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE, BUT AFTER THAT IT WOULD BE NEW BALL GAME. IF MPS FAILED TO DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES AND DEAL WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING KINGDOM, ESPECIALLY INFLATION, ARMY MIGHT MOVE TO TAKE POWER AGAIN. HE SAID ARMY MIGHT EVEN SECRETLY CONTRIBUTE TO CAMPAIGNS OF MORE RADICAL MPS SO THAT AFTER ELECTIONS MILITARY COULD POINT TO IRRESPONSIBLE MPS AND CLAIM THAT FUTURE COUP IN PUBLIC INTEREST TO PREVENT "IDIOT MPS FROM RUINING COUNTRY

6. DETCHAT SAID IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MAKE CRITICISMS DIRECTLY TO SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF HIS PAST ASSOCIATION WITH LEADERS OUSTED IN OCTOBER AND BECAUSE THIS IS "KING'S GOVERNMENT." HE EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT POINTS ABOUT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND RTG-DRV RELATIONS MIGHT BE RAISED WITH RTG LEADERSHIP BY RANKING EMBASSY OFFICIALS BUT ASKED THAT HIS NAME NOT BE USED IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

7. COMMENT: DETCHAT HAS MASTERS DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM CORNELL AND LIKES TO TALK POLITICS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS WHOM HE FEELS WILL RESPECT HIS CONFIDENCES BUT PASS HIS VIEWS UP THE LINE. HE IS A LIVELY CONVERSATIONALIST WHO ENJOYS PORTRAYING HIMSELF AS BEING PRIVY TO SECRETS BUT MAY EXAGGERATE
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EXTENT OF THIS KNOWLEDGE. NEVERTHELESS, HIS CONCERNS OVER THE

VIETNAMESE PROBLEM AND THE FUTURE OF THE MONARCHY SEEM GENUINE.
BROH-KAHN. UNQUOTE. HAMILTON. GDS.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974UDORN00123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: UDORN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740532/aaaabcba.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <12-Aug-2002 by izenbei0, 3.4.X1>; RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005